

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A method for detecting the presence of a N-gene of the hSARS virus in a biological sample, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting the sample with a ~~compound that selectively binds to said N-gene nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2475, 2476, 2480 and/or 2481~~; and
- (b) detecting whether the ~~compound~~ nucleic acid molecule binds to said N-gene in the sample.

13-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject
- (b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and
- (c) subjecting the cDNA to real-time PCR assay using a set of primers derived from a nucleotide sequence of the N-gene of the hSARS ~~consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:2475 and 2476, respectively~~.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 20~~ A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject

(b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and  
(c) subjecting the cDNA to real-time PCR assay using a set of primers,  
wherein the set of primers have consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:2480 and 2481, respectively.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers one or more isolated nucleic acid molecules ~~comprising-a~~ consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2475 and/or SEQ ID NO:2476.

26. (Currently amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers one or more isolated nucleic acid molecules ~~comprising-a~~ consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2480 and/or SEQ ID NO:2481.

27-29. (Cancelled).